

# THE RICHEST SPOT IN CUBA

OUR hours east of Havana in Pinar del Rio is one of the most valuable tracts of land on the face of the earth. There are but two places in the whole world where the ground is worth so much as in the Vuelta Abajo.

These two places are that portion of the valley of the Rhine where the Johannaberger grape is grown, from which Liebfraumilch and other fine wines are made, and the Kimberly diamond district in South Africa. In the Vuelta Abajo the soil grows tobacco which when properly cured, rolled and stamped can be sold in the shape of cigars at the rate of \$7.50 each.

What, then, is the marvel of this priceless tobacco ground? To the eye—nothing. Dusty red loam rather than on rocky hillside and sparingly spread with tender concern as a half bald man disperses his hair impartially over his head. Next to each tobacco vega (a farm of an average extent of 40 acres) is a hayfield. The hay is not raised for animals. It is cut and spread on the tobacco land and there decomposed and washed into the soil by the rains. It is the fertilizer.

But it is not hay fertilizer alone that makes Vuelta Abajo tobacco what it is, nor yet the chemically protection that keeps out the hottest rays of the sun, nor yet the choice seed, nor even yet the mild, equable nature of the climate, nor the chemical composition of the soil. For each and every one of these conditions is reproduced in other places without that surprising and delicious climax of tobacco culture that comes alone from the heart of Pinar del Rio.

Neither science nor experience can tell exactly what it is that makes Vuelta Abajo tobacco just what it is. But the native Cuban knows the secret. In strict confidence he sometimes confides this secret and I intend now for the first time to make it public. The great superiority of Vuelta Abajo tobacco over all others lies in the fact that each year on Easter Sunday the soil of every vega in the province is anointed with the blood of a fighting cock killed in honorable combat.

That I might have no doubt of this astonishing agricultural theory I was shown the training quarters of the fighting cocks of the district. While I was there the old trainer gave them their morning meal of bananas and milk and massaged them under the wing pits with Malaga wine.

The cockfight has entered curiously into Cuban politics. The most brilliant man in affairs there is Alfredo Zayas, now vice-president. He is the Kihu Root of the island, an attorney, shrewd, hard working, far-sighted. Unfortunately for his presidential aspirations he has listened long and eagerly to American ideas of Cuban affairs as they should be. That is where he fell down. Jose Miguel Gomez listened to Cuban affairs as they are.

Zayas thought it would be a good thing to suppress the cockfight. The Americans told him it would be. It is a cruel sport; it is barbaric; it is not pleasant to the Anglo-Saxon taste; so the Americans told Zayas and Zayas listened, too eagerly. Gomez knew he was dealing with a Castilian people; he was a Castilian himself. He loved a cockfight himself, just as every one of his true compatriots did. He loved Zayas in Havana was trying to convince his countrymen that they should abolish cockfighting Gomez, in Pinar del Rio, was personally attending the Easter Sunday anointing of Vuelta Abajo tobacco lands; and Gomez was elected president of the Cuban republic.

But Cuba is only one-half tobacco. The other half is sugar, with a dash of bacardi. This half stretches from Guanahama to the Bay of Nipe and disgorges its sweet substance through the harbors of Cienfuegos and Santiago. A trip to Cuba would not be complete without a visit to a sugar refinery, and that is comparatively easy for an American, for four-fifths of them are either owned or managed by Americans and their countrymen are always welcome visitors.

There you can see the sugar cane hotbed from the flat cars at one end of the refinery and, following it down the course of its journey to the other end, you discover strange emanations into the various vats. Into the first pours a sirup as thick and almost as black as crude asphalt and into the end one pours the very finest sirup of all, a yellow stream as thin as the sap from a maple tree in spring. From the black stream is crystallized the lowest grade of brown sugar; from the light yellow stream the highest grade of cane sugar.

As you leave the sugar refinery you will pass through miles of sugar cane and if you are there late in the season you will at convenient intervals come upon a treacherous looking fellow carrying a rifle in the hollow of his arm. He scans you closely and will be quite sure of your pacific identity before you will be allowed to pass on. All over the island those guards are as numerous almost as the workers.

Right here, in this sugar guard, you can study quickly all the complicated, melodramatic politics of the island. Why should he guard sugar cane? Because in the heart of the sugar cane lies all the inflammable spirit of revolution. Around this sugar cane revolves world politics, for it is the



twin backbone of Cuban industry, and there, on a par with tobacco, is guiding the finances of the realm; and, as everyone knows, high finance is today the soul of politics, indeed of statecraft.

If any Cuban workman becomes disaffected for any cause whatever or for

no cause he may light a cigarette, stroll into the sugar cane, flip his partially consumed weed into the field and pass on. In less than an hour that entire plantation will be in ashes and thousands upon thousands of dollars will have gone up in smoke. And who will decipher the origin? No one, unless the ever-vigilant guard prevents the tossing of the cigarette and then there will be no fire.

But a great number of tourists never see the sugar fields, never see the tobacco lands. Those who are wealthy spend their time motoring along the beautiful roads which surround Havana and stretch even as far as Santa Clara, a third of the way across the island. The others stick to the hotels, see an occasional cockfight, visit the jai alai courts or dance the pleasant evenings away under the semitropical moon.

The people who support the leading hostilities are to a great and growing extent those who take their own automobiles to Cuba. Every year new and better roads are being opened. Already those near Havana are about as perfect as the climate.

## THE OLDEST ATTIC LETTER

Gives a Glimpse of Manners and Customs in Demosthenes' Time.

A little leaden tablet, tarnished, ugly and otherwise trivial in appearance, was sent a few years ago from Athens to the Imperial Museum of Berlin, the Scientific American says. On one side of it was some writing which only recently was deciphered with precise correctness by Adolph Wilhelm. The tablet is the original of a private letter that was written about the time of the orator Demosthenes.

The writer of the letter lived in a rural neighborhood and wished to send a commercial order to a town. The form of the address was: "To be taken to the pottery market and to be handed to Nausias, or to Thrasykles, or to the son" (perhaps the son of the writer was meant). The weekly market, to which the Attic countrymen had gone to offer their produce and wares for sale, may be imagined in progress. There the boy who was bearer of the letter was to find the stand or booth of one of the three persons to whom it was addressed and deliver it to him. The text of the letter says: "Mnestergos greets you cordially, he greets your family with the same esteem and wishes them good health, and he says also that his own health is good. Please be so kind as to send me a mantle, either of

sheepskin or of goatskin, and let it be as cheap as possible, for it does not need to be trimmed with fur. Send with a pair of heavy soles also. As soon as I have an opportunity I will pay you."

So much for the letter, to the motive of which the reader can point with as much precision as the author. Apparently it was written in winter, poor Mnestergos having been surprised out in the open country by one of those icy snowstorms which sometimes even at this day cover the temples of Acropolis with a mantle of snow. Therefore he desired to receive as quickly as possible the heavy and warm garment of the poorer countrymen, a goatskin, which could be bought for 4½ drachmas, and the strong soles which were worn under the ordinary sandals on the rural plains and hillsides. A good pair of the latter could be bought for four drachmas, as a well-preserved bill of that date shows.

A noteworthy feature of this attic letter is the formula that may be found used in very numerous letters that were preserved by the Greek literature of later times. Even at the present day every letter written by a rural Greek begins with the same cordial inquiry about the health of the person to whom the letter is written and with the brief information about the health of the writer.

## RACE IS NEARING ITS END

The Marquesans, a Strong and Handsome People, Are Literally Rotting Away.

Of all the inhabitants of the South seas, the Marquesans were adjudged the strongest and the most beautiful. And now all this strength and beauty has departed, and the valley of Typhoe is the abode of some dozen wretched creatures, afflicted by leprosy, elephantiasis and tuberculosis. Melville estimated the population at 2,000, not taking into consideration the small adjoining valley of Ho-o-u-mi. Life has rotted away in this wonderful garden spot, where the climate is as delightful and healthful as any to be found in the world. Not alone were the Typhoeans physically magnificent; they were pure. Their air did not contain the bacilli and germs and microbes of disease that fill our own air. And when the white man imported in his ships these various micro-organisms of disease the Typhoeans crumpled up and went down before them.

When one considers the situation, one is almost driven to the conclusion that the white race flourishes on impurity and corruption. Natural selection, however, gives the explanation. We of the white race are the survivors and the descendants of the thousands of generations of survivors in the war with micro-organisms. Whenever one of us was born with a constitution peculiarly receptive to these minute enemies, such a one promptly died. Only those of us survived who could withstand them. We who are alive are the immune, the fit—the ones best constituted to live in a world of hostile micro-organisms. The poor Marquesans

had undergone no such selection. They were not immune. And they, who had made a custom of eating their enemies, were now eaten by enemies so microscopic as to be invisible, and against whom no war of dart and javelin was possible. On the other hand, had there been a few hundred thousand Marquesans to begin with, there might have been sufficient survivors to lay the foundation for a new race—a regenerated race, if a plunge into a foaming bath of organic poison can be called a regeneration.—Pacific Monthly.

### New Feminine Industry.

The studio girl showed 16 slabs of cake wrapped in tissue paper and tagged with well-known names. "That is wedding cake," she said. "I got these pieces because I designed the cakes. Early last fall I came to the conclusion that wedding cakes don't stand as high in art as they deserve to. For the first time in my life I took to studying society notes. When ever a big wedding was announced I put in a bid for designing the wedding cake, just as an architect bids for building a house. The idea appealed to a number of people who are always on the lookout for novelties and they paid me a good price for drawing up plans for the baker to work on. In addition to the money, I got a slice of every cake. The money is all gone, but I am still hanging on to the cake."—New York Sun.

An Easy Angel. "Any good thing in the new musical show?" "Yes, the baker was a good thing."—Kansas City Times.

## CHURCHMAN'S STOMACH WEAK

Rev. Lapley Suffered Twelve Years From It—How He Conquered It! You Also Can, Free.

Through an announcement that he saw in his local paper the Rev. J. D. Lapley of Avondale Station, Birmingham, Ala., learned that he could obtain a free trial bottle of a remedy for the cure of indigestion, and as he was interested because he suffered that way, he wrote for it. The remedy was Dr. Caldwell's Syrup Pepsin, who is a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and a member of the Central Alabama Conference, took the free bottle with the result that he was very speedily cured. You or any other sufferer from constipation, indigestion and dyspepsia, sick headache and such digestive troubles can have a free trial bottle sent to your home prepaid, by forwarding your name and address. It is the gentlest, mildest, best tasting, most effective laxative tonic you ever tried. Druggists will sell you the regular bottle at 50 cents or \$1.00 and results are guaranteed. A picture of Mrs. Northrup, of Quincy, Ill., a cured patient, is presented herewith. If there is anything about your case that you don't understand write the doctor and he will advise you. The address is Dr. W. B. Caldwell, 201 Caldwell Bldg., Monticello, Ill.

### HUNTING 'EM BOTH.



Texas Bear (to senator on a walking trip in the mountains)—Hully gee! Is the president after you, too?

### IT WEARS YOU OUT.

Kidney Troubles Lower the Vitality of the Whole Body.



Don't wait for serious illness; begin using Doan's Kidney Pills when you first feel backache or notice urinary disorders.

John L. Perry, Columbus, Texas, says: "I was taken sick about a year ago. My limbs and feet began to swell and my doctor said I had Bright's disease. I then consulted another doctor who told me I had dropsy and could not live. Doan's Kidney Pills relieved me promptly, and I owe my life to them."

Remember the name—Doan's. For sale by all dealers. 50 cents a box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

Drain on Country's Resources. In 1908, the foreign-born population of 12.6 per cent. furnished 15.6 per cent. of the criminals, 20.8 per cent. of the paupers, and 23.5 per cent. of the insane. Between 1904 and 1908, the aliens in these institutions increased 34 per cent.

Different. Visitor—I saw your husband in the crowd down town today. In fact, he was so close that I could have touched him. Hostess—That's strange. At home he is so close that nobody can touch him!—Puck.

Important to Mothers. Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA, a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Atkinson*. In Use For Over 30 Years. The Kind You Have Always Bought.

The Limit. Knicker—The price of everything has gone up. Docker—Yes, we even got a smaller hole in a doughnut.—N. Y. Sun.

Kill the Flies Now and Keep disease away. A DAISY FLY KILLER will do it. Kills thousands. Lasts all season. Ask your dealer, or send 2c to H. SOMERS, 130 Dekalb Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.

A man prides himself on his wonderful self-control when he refrains from doing anything he doesn't want to do. SORE EYES, weak, inflamed, red, watery and swollen eyes, use PETTIT'S EYE SALVE. 25c. All druggists or Howard Bros., Buffalo, N. Y.

Go to any old person for sympathy, and you will learn that you don't know what real trouble is.

ARE YOUR CLOTHES FADED? Use Red Cross Ball Blue and make them white again. Large 2 oz. package, 5 cents. It's awfully hard to convince the young man in the case that all the world loves a lover. Dr. Pierce's Peppermint, small, sugar-coated, easy to take as candy, relieves and invigorates stomach, breaks up indigestion and cures constipation. A girl isn't necessarily a jewel because she is set in her ways. Lewis' Single Binder, the famous straight B grade—annual sale 9,380,000. How the woman doesn't enjoy her being another princess.

## SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA, A City Beautiful.

Is in the heart of the richest, best profit making farm land in the great Southwest. From a brush pile to a city of 25,000 population in 15 years. Wonder of the age is city building. Now building meat packing house—1500 employees; Cotton Fabric Mill—500 employees; Baptist and Catholic State Universities—will enroll 1000 students. Unprecedented profit making investments waiting for men of small and large means. The last opportunity to get property in Shawnee at a low price. Get in on the ground floor. Prices will advance rapidly. Nothing can stop Shawnee now. For descriptive literature and further information write SHAWNEE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY, Shawnee, Oklahoma, which is not a real estate company.

### Fool Remarks.

The fluency of courtesy remarks that some people feel called upon to interject into conversation calls for a permanent commission in lunacy," said the man with the laughing mouth. "Now, the other day I was telling Jones going down on the subway that my four-year-old had swallowed a safety pin, and we were up half the night with him."

"It was an accident, of course," said that idiot Jones."

STATE OF OHIO CITY OF TOLEDO, Lucas County.

FRANK J. GIBNEY makes oath that he is a partner in the firm of F. J. GIBNEY & CO., doing business in the City of Toledo, Ohio, and that said firm has been the owner of OVER HUNDRED DOLLARS in cash and every one of the shares of said firm is owned by said firm.

FRANK J. GIBNEY, Sole Agent.

Remedies Too Costly. Get out the old-fashioned household remedy book and scratch out two remedies, one advising raw beefsteak spread on a bruise and the other advising bacon for a fever. We can't waste beefsteak and bacon on bruises and fevers these days.—Atchison Globe.

Had Rheumatism—Couldn't Sleep. A lady from Oklahoma City writes: "I was sick in bed with Rheumatism, ankles swollen, couldn't sleep. Electrodes cured me. They are great." At Drug Stores—\$1.00. No cure, no pay. Write for free trial offer. Western Electrode Co., Dept. A., Los Angeles, Cal.

It takes people who have no opinions of their own to make good jurors—therefore women are not eligible.

Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup. For children teething, soothes the gums, reduces inflammation, cures colic and wind. One can't always disguise the breath of suspicion by sly talk. Many who used to smoke the pipe now buy Lewis' Single Binder straight up. Many a man tries to stand on his rights when he hasn't any.

Each of the chief organs of the body is a link in the Chain of Life. A chain is no stronger than its weakest link, the body no stronger than its weakest organ. If there is weakness of stomach, liver or lungs, there is a weak link in the chain of life which may snap at any time. Often this so-called "weakness" is caused by lack of nutrition, the result of weakness or disease of the stomach and other organs of digestion and nutrition. Diseases and weaknesses of the stomach and its allied organs are cured by the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. When the weak or diseased stomach is cured, diseases of other organs which stem remote from the stomach but which have their origin in a diseased condition of the stomach and other organs of digestion and nutrition, are cured also.

The strong man has a strong stomach. Take the above recommended "Discovery" and you may have a strong stomach and a strong body.

GIVEN AWAY.—Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser, new revised Edition, is sent free on receipt of stamps to pay expense of mailing only. Send 21 one-cent stamps for the book in paper cover, or 31 stamps for the cloth-bound volume. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

## STOMACH LIVER LUNGS

Each of the chief organs of the body is a link in the Chain of Life. A chain is no stronger than its weakest link, the body no stronger than its weakest organ. If there is weakness of stomach, liver or lungs, there is a weak link in the chain of life which may snap at any time. Often this so-called "weakness" is caused by lack of nutrition, the result of weakness or disease of the stomach and other organs of digestion and nutrition. Diseases and weaknesses of the stomach and its allied organs are cured by the use of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. When the weak or diseased stomach is cured, diseases of other organs which stem remote from the stomach but which have their origin in a diseased condition of the stomach and other organs of digestion and nutrition, are cured also.

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## There is positively no bounds to the utility of RESINOL

for home or family use when soreness of the skin prevails, it first soothes, then heals. A certain cure for itching piles. RESINOL CHEMICAL COMPANY, BALTIMORE, MD. Resinol Ointment, Resinol Toilet Soap, Resinol Medicated Shaving Stick are sold at all Drug Stores.

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A Woman's Home should be her pride. Your home should reflect your own individuality. You cannot have special wall papers designed by you for each room—you can carry out a special Alabastine decorative scheme for those rooms—you can be a leader in your community and have your home the talk of your friends.

Alabastine The Stylish Wall Tint

is the material that will accomplish this result. We can show you numerous color effects, elegant stencil designs, and our Art Department is at your service. Send for the Alabastine book explaining what we do for you, and how we furnish free samples where Alabastine is used.

Alabastine is a powder made from Alabaster, ready for use by mixing with cold water, and is applied with an ordinary wall brush. Full directions on each package.

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Made of steel, light, easy to attach. Will outlast the shoe. Any cobbler can put them on. Your shoe dealer has shoes already fitted with them. Send for booklet that tells all about them.

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W. N. U.—Kansas City, Mo. 20-1910.